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DE RUEHRO #0330 2421646
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Z 301645Z AUG 83 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2625
RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE 0072
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE 4937
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20330

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, IT, LE
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN BEIRUT

1. (CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMS US THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT TELEPHONED ROME ABOUT 1800 ROME TIME (NOON WASHINGTON TIME) TO REPORT THAT BOTH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD BEEN SHELLED. APPARENTLY NO MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WERE HURT; THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY PEOPLE AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAD BEEN WOUNDED.

3. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT EARLIER TODAY PRIME MINISTER CRAXI TELEPHONED BOTH GEMAYEL AND JUMBLATT. SO FAR WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO

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CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

FIND OUT WHAT HE SAID, BUT VERY LIKELY THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WILL INFORM THE PRESS.

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

RADU

END OF MESSAGE

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